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John W. Bailey BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, L.L.P. P.O. Box 747 Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

Dear Mr. Bailey:

This is in response to your letter received 02 February 2005 inquiring about the status of U.S. patent application 09/446,314 filed 20 December 1999. The USPTO records show that the application has been processed by the U.S. Designated/Elected Office and a Notification of Acceptance of Application (Form PCT/DO/EO/903) was mailed to applicant on 16 February 2000. The application is currently with Examiner Samuel Durant Jr. (Telephone No. 703-308-9210, extension 105). All further inquiries about the status of this application should be addressed to Marian Hines, Manager of the Office of Initial Patent Examination, at telephone number (703) 308-9210, extension 103 or to Catherine Short, Manager of the U.S. Designated/Elected Office at (703) 308-9140, extension 220.

Sincerely,

Nguyên Ngoc-Hô Paralegal Specialist PCT Legal Office

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